

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01

DRC-01 /103 W

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R 041404Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 690

INFO COMUSFORAZ

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

UNCLAS LISBON 4293

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, MARR

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE NEWSPAPER COMMENTS ON SCHLESINGER  
CONFERENCE AND LAJES RENEWAL

1. PROMINENT ARTICLE IN OCT. 3 LISBON "DIARIO DE LISBOA" CARRIES STATEMENT BY SECDEF SCHLESINGER FROM OCT. 2 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT, IF NECESSARY, USAF COULD BYPASS AZORES AND REFULE IN AIR. ARTICLE NOTES SOARES- KISSINGER DISCUSSIONS ON SUBJECT RENEWAL AND SCHLESINGER COMMENT THAT RECENT CHANGE IN GOP NOT TO AFFECT RENEWAL DISCUSSION. D/L STORY SAYS AZORES WERE VITAL TO US IN ISRAELI ARMS SHIPMENTS LAST YEAR AND THAT WHEREAS EVEN THE GREEK COLONELS DIDN'T PERMIT THE US TO USE THEIR TERRITORY DURING THE WAR, THE "FASCIST GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL DID NOT HESITATE A SECOND, IF THE AMERICANS EVEN BOTHERED TO ASK LISBON. WHAT WASHINGTON WANTED, WASHINGTON GOT."

2. D/L STORY CONCLUDES THAT SCHLESINGER COMMENTS MAY BE INTERPRETED EITHER AS A TACTICAL MANEUVER TO CHEAPEN THE  
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VALUE OF THE BASE, OR AS A DAMAGE-LIMITING AND FACE-SAVING

EXERCISE IN CASE THE AGREEMENT IS NOT RENEWED. ARTICLE SAYS  
"ON THE PORTUGUESE SIDE ONE THING MUST BE CONSIDRED: THAT  
THE TERM OF CONCESSION--WHICH HAS BEEN FOR TWO YEARS(SIC)-  
MUST NOT BE LENGTHENED IN EXCHANGE FOR GREATER BENEFITS.  
QUESTIONS REGARDING ALLIANCES AND MILITARY BASES ARE VERY  
IMPORTANT AND THE GOVERNMENT EMERGING FROM FREE ELECTIONS  
NEXT YEAR MUST BE GIVEN AMPLE CHOICE IN THAT REGARD."  
SCOTT

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